

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-16 remain in the application. Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-15 are subject to examination and claim 16 has been withdrawn from examination. Claims 1, 7 and 9 have been amended. Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled.

In item 2 on pages 2 and 3 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-7 and 10-14 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,246,615 to King et al. (hereinafter King) under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claim 1 has been amended with the features of claims 6 and 8. In item 4 on page 4, applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 8 and 9 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

In item 3 on pages 3 and 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claim 15 has been rejected as being obviated by King in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,583,375 to Tsubosaki et al. (hereinafter Tsubosaki) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claim 15 depends on claim 1. Claim 1 is believed to be allowable and therefore claim 15 is also believed to be allowable.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7 and 9-16 are solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of three months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$950.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner

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Amdt., Dated March 11, 2004  
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and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted

For Applicants

REL:cgm

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